

the cited art. Consequently, the claims depending directly or indirectly from claim 1, as amended, should be in condition for allowance.

In the office action, the examiner has rejected a number of claims as being anticipated or rendered obvious by the patent Nagahiro *et al.* A review of the Nagahiro patent does show a system for treating water with ozone. However, there are numerous differences between applicant's system and the Nagahiro system. There is one particular fundamental difference that is focused on in new claims 24-26. A review of the Nagahiro patent shows that the system is a closed system. More particularly, the process of Nagahiro is a batch process. See column 7, lines 36-37. Also note where the reaction tank is a closed tank, as described in column 26, lines 43-44. Essentially, this means that in Nagahiro, the reaction tank is filled with water and then the water contained within the tank undergoes an ozone-treating process. After the water within the tank has been completely treated, then the entire contents of the treatment tank are discharged at one time. Thereafter, the tank is filled and the ozone-treatment process proceeds. Thus, in Nagahiro, the process is not a flow through or on-demand process. Again, it is a batch process where the reaction tank is completely filled and only after the water therein is treated with ozone is the ozone-treated water discharged.

That is to be contrasted with applicant's invention, which is a flow through or on-demand process. That is, in a typical application, the ozone-treated water will be continuously or sequentially discharged from the pressurized tank. As the water is discharged, additional untreated water from a pressurized water supply

is directed into the tank. Further, while ozone-treated water has been discharged and untreated water has been directed into the pressurized tank, the ozone-treating process is carried out through a side stream or recirculating process.

These basic differences have been set forth in new claims 24-26. For example, in claim 26, in paragraph e, it is recited that the pressure associated with the water supply acts as a pressure source for discharging the ozone-treated water from the treatment tank as water from the pressurized water supply is directed into the pressure tank in response to treated water being discharged from the treatment tank. That is clearly not the case in Nagahiro. That is, in Nagahiro the flow of untreated water into the reaction tank is not in response to the ongoing discharge of treated water from the reaction tank. In addition, paragraph e of claim 24 recites that this process gives rise to an on-demand process wherein a supply of ozone-treated water is constantly maintained in the pressure tank even while ozone-treated water is discharged from the pressure tank and untreated water from the pressurized water supply is directed into the pressure tank.

Therefore, the process for treating and discharging ozone-treated water as set forth in claim 24 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by Nagahiro. In applicant's invention, the system or process entails a flow-through or on-demand process where ozone-treated water is constantly maintained within the tank even while treated water is discharged therefrom and untreated water from the pressurized water supply is directed into the tank.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$39 for one additional claim. If this check is insufficient in any way, the Patent Office is authorized to deduct any additional fees from our Deposit Account No. 18-1167.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully urged that the present application is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested.

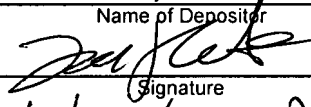
Respectfully submitted,

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